

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08654 01 OF 02 251456Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 ACDA-07 DHA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EURE-00 AID-05 /107 W
-----066580 251531Z /45

P 251440Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1023

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 08654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, XA, BE

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: BELGIAN CHARGE MEETS WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 08654 01 OF 02 251456Z

REF: BRUSSELS 7456

1. SUMMARY: ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER TELLS NEW BELGIAN
CHARGE THAT ANGOLA SEEKS INDEPENDENCE FROM ALL BLOCS,
THAT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN "ADVISORS" HAVE LIMITED ROLE OF
HELPING CREATE ANGOLAN ARMY CAPABLE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE,

AND THAT ANGOLA WILL "NEVER" ACCEPT FOREIGN AIR OR NAVAL BASES. DOS SANTOS PRESSES FOR RAPID AGREEMENT FOR AN ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS AND FREES BELGIAN PRISONER. END SUMMARY.

2. ANGOLAN FOREIGN POLICY: FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN DESK OFFICER (VAN BRUSSELEN) REVIEWED WITH US IN DETAIL JULY 22 THE REPORTING TELEGRAM OF THE MEETING OF THE NEW BELGIAN CHARGE IN LUANDA (LA COMTE) JULY 20 WITH ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER DOS SANTOS. LE COMTE REPORTED THAT DOS SANTOS TOLD HIM ANGOLAN FOREIGN POLICY WAS BASED ON UN CHARTER PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF DISPUTES. DOS SANTOS CALLED ANGOLAN POLICY ONE OF "ACTIVE NON-ALIGNMENT," STRESSING THE WISH FOR COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE AND THE REFUSAL TO BE "INTEGRATED INTO ANY BLOC." DOS SANTOS TOLD LE COMTE THAT ANGOLANS "HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION IN THE PAST AND THEREFORE WILL NOT ACCEPT A NEW DOMINATION." LE COMTE QUOTED DOS SANTOS AS SAYING, "MAYBE IN THE FUTURE WE MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH A CAPITALIST COUNTRY AS WELL AS ONE OR ANOTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRY." HE SAID ANGOLANS ACCEPTED "MILITARY AID FROM RUSSIA AND CUBA" ONLY AFTER THEIR COUNTRY "WAS INVADED IN THE NORTH BY ZAIRE (SIC) AND IN THE SOUTH BY SOUTH AFRICA." HE EMPHASIZED THAT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN "ADVISORS" STAYED ON "TO HELP US CREATE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 08654 01 OF 02 251456Z

A NATIONAL ARMY CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THE COUNTRY AGAINST FOREIGN AGGRESSION; THEIR ROLE IS LIMITED TO THAT FUNCTION." LE COMTE REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSED THAT ANGOLANS "WILL NEVER ACCEPT FOREIGN NAVAL OR AIR BASES ON OUR TERRITORY."

3. NAMIBIA: FOREIGN MINISTER DOS SANTOS TOLD LE COMTE THAT HE "APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF THE WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP" TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS OF NAMIBIA BUT MADE THREE POINTS ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:

-- SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS MUST BE WITHDRAWN FROM NAMIBIA BEFORE ELECTIONS;

-- POLITICAL PRISONERS MUST BE RELEASED AND ALLOWED TO VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS;

-- NAMING BY THE SAG OF AN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL AT THIS STAGE WAS "ILLOGICAL" SINCE THE UN HAD ITS OWN COMPETENT ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY FOR NAMIBIA.

4. ZAIRE AND ANGOLA: FOREIGN MINISTER DOS SANTOS REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN MOBUTU AND THE MPLA IN TERMS THAT LE COMTE DESCRIBED AS "HARD ON ZAIRE." DOS SANTOS FINISHED BY ADDING THAT HE WAS "OPTIMISTIC" AND ANTICIPATED THAT "WE WILL RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES WITH ZAIRE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE."

5. ANGOLAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: LE COMTE REPORTED DOS SANTOS AS PRESSING FOR EARLY AGREEMENT FOR AN ANGOLAN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL) AND, IN THE PROCESS, EXPLAINING ANGOLAN CRITERIA FOR RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, PUTTING COUNTRIES IN ONE OF THREE GROUPS:

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08654 02 OF 02 251502Z
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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 ACDA-07 DHA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EURE-00 AID-05 /107 W
-----066664 251532Z /45

P 251440Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1024
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 08654

-- GROUP ONE: COUNTRIES WHICH "ACTIVELY HELPED THE MPLA" AND THUS EARNED THE RIGHT TO IMMEDIATE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. DOS SANTOS PUT THE SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 08654 02 OF 02 251502Z

UNION, CUBA, AND CERTAIN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THIS CATEGORY;

-- GROUP TWO: COUNTRIES "WHICH HAVE PROVEN SYMPATHETIC" TO MPLA AND THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. DOS SANTOS PUT BELGIUM IN THIS CATEGORY AND TOLD LE COMTE THEY WERE "STUDYING" WAYS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES;

-- GROUP THREE: THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT HAVE A "POSITIVE ATTITUDE" TOWARDS ANGOLA OR WERE "IN LEAGUE WITH IMPERIALIST OR RACIST POWERS." DOS SANTOS PUT FRANCE IN THIS CATEGORY AND GAVE NO INDICATION OF WHEN NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THIS CATEGORY OF COUNTRIES MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE.

6. RELEASE OF BELGIAN PRISONER: LE COMTE ASKED DOS SANTOS ABOUT STATUS OF CAPTAIN D'OULTREMONT, A BELGIAN FISHING CAPTAIN ARRESTED SEVEN MONTHS EARLIER AND HIS BOAT IMPOUNDED NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE ZAIRE RIVER. HE HAD BEEN HELD IN PRISON SINCE THEN WITHOUT CHARGES AND WITHOUT VISITATION RIGHTS BY BELGIAN CONSULAR OFFICER. DOS SANTOS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE CASE AND SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER, A BELGIAN CONSULAR OFFICER WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT CAPTAIN D'OULTREMONT IN PRISON.

7. OUR DISCUSSION WITH VAN BRUSSELEN WAS INTERRUPTED BY MFA AFRICAN DIRECTOR LE BRUN WHO ANNOUNCED THAT THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAD JUST FREED CAPTAIN D'OULTREMONT AND THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO BELGIUM OVER THE WEEKEND. LE BRUN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE SPEEDY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 08654 02 OF 02 251502Z

RELEASE OF THE BELGIAN CAPTAIN WAS LINKED TO ANGOLAN INTEREST IN A SPEEDY AGREEMENT FOR AN AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD URGE THE PROMPT AGREEMENT IN THE INTEREST OF FULLER DIALOGUE WITH ANGOLA BUT NOTED

THAT APART FROM BUREAUCRATIC SLOWNESS IN PUSHING THE
PAPERS THROUGH THE MINISTRY, THERE WERE SOME URGING THAT
AGREEMENT BE HELD UP UNTIL THERE WAS SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT
ON ANGOLAN AGREEMENT FOR A BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA,
WHICH HAS BEEN LANGUISHING FOR OVER A YEAR (REFTEL).
CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PINR, AO, XA, BE, (DOS SANTOS, JOSE EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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